(c) to what extent caste-specific bonanzas will hurt minorities and their educational aspirations; and

(d) the steps proposed to study the long term impact of excluding minorities from recent caste-specific bonanzas of UGC?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC) the UGC has announced during the current financial year 2006-07, the following two schemes for educational upliftment of the socially deprived students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(i) Post Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST candidates

(ii) Post Graduate (PG) scholarships for Professional courses for SC/ST candidates.

There are 100 slots per year under the Post-Doctoral Fellowship scheme for undertaking advanced studies and research, in Science, Engineering and Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences in Universities/ Institutions / Colleges.

1000 PG scholarships are to be given to the students doing M.B.A., M. Pharma. and M. Tech.

(c) The above mentioned schemes for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, do not come in the way of educational aspirations of the minorities.

(d) Does not arise.

Privatization of power distribution

*367. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after four years of power privatization, Government have not been able to produce desired results in the Capital and the menace of inflated bills and fast running meters are persisting;

(b) whether it is also a fact that administration is not at all prepared to take into account consumers' points of view;

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to make Capital free from power-cut and no further increase in tariff;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) According to the Govt, of NCT of Delhi, privatization of power has produced the desired results. The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) has informed the following:

(i) The Aggregate Technical and Commercial Losses (AT&C) have come down from 50% in 2002 (when the distribution was privatised) to about 35% in March, 2006 and the distribution companies (DISCOM3) have achieved the targets for loss reduction.

(ii) At the time of privatisation, the Government of NCT of Delhi was spending about Rs. 1200 crore every year in the operation of the Delhi Vidyut Board. This has since got substantially reduced and now, the Government of NCT of Delhi is only spending on the capital expenditure plans of the Generating Companies and the Delhi Transco Ltd. and for providing subsidy to certain groups of consumers in accordance with Section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003. In 2005-06, the Government of NCT of Delhi spent about Rs. 91 crore for subsidizing the power tariff for domestic and agricultrural consumers. This implies that additional funds are now available with the Government for other development schemes.

(iii) Load shedding in Million Units (MU) has reduced from 558 MU in 2001-02 to about 321 MU in 2005-06.

(iv) Distribution Transformer failure rate has reduced from 15% in 2002 to less than 1.5% by the end of FY 2005-06.

(v) Response time for attending to consumer complaints and for giving new connections has come down considerably.

(vi) The available options for payment of electricity bills has increased manifold.

Government of NCT of Delhi and DISCOMS have conducted meter testing drives in 2005. DERC has also conducted meter testing drive from 1st October, 2005 to 10th January, 2006 in association with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Central Power Research Institute (CPRI). Meters were fond to be as per stipulated norms.

Under the Electricity Act, 2003, the tariff for supply of power to various categories of consumers is to be determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. During the process of determination of tariff the DERC also conduct public hearing on the Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) as submitted by the distribution licensees and consider it along with the objections and suggestions of the various stakeholders including consumers.

The Distribution Companies have set up their Consumer Grievance Redressal Forums (CGRFs) in accordance with the Regulations framed by the DERC. These Forums are in operation since August, 2004. In addition to the Forums, the DERC has also appointed the Electricity Ombudsman in August, 2004 which is the Appellate Body for orders passed by the Forums. The CGRFs and Electricity Ombudsman hear all cases except thosre relating to theft, unauthorised use of electricity, etc.

Delhi Government has been reviewing the situation with DISCOMS for bringing improvement in the responsiveness of the system towards consumers.

(c) to (e) The Government has taken the following steps to augment power supply in Delhi:-

> Delhi has decided to set up 3 gas based stations of 2150 MW capacity (Pragati II, Bawana and IP Station replacement).

> Memorandum of Understanding has been signed on 10.2.2006 with NTPC for putting up a plant (capacity 2 X490 MW) for Delhi in Uttar Pradesh. The project is expected to be commissioned in about 4 years time. 90% of the capacity would be allocated to Delhi and remaining to U.P.

> Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) have been executed on 19.4.2006 for availability and allocation of power to Delhi to the tune of 431 MW from the Barh, Kahalgaon Stage II, Unchahar Stage III and North Karanpura Power Stations of NTPC.

> PPA has been executed on 19.4.2006 for allocation of 600 MW of power from the Tehri Pump Storage (Phase-ll) Project Plant is expected to be commissoned druing 2009-10

> Delhi has been allocated 200 MW from Tala Hydro Power Plant scheduled to be commissioned within this year

> An agreement has been executed on 24 8.2006 for availing power from Damodar Valley Corporation for 100-2500 MW during the period from December 2006 to March 2011 and also from April 2011 onwards.

> An agreement has been executed with Haryana on 24 8.2006 for establishment of a 1500 MW project in Haryana from which Delhi would get 750 MW. The project is expected to be commissioned in 2010-11.

> MOU has been executed on 24.8.2006 with NTPC for agumentation of generation plant at Badarpur Thermal Power Station. The units are expected to be commissioned by 2009-10 onwards.

> Power for seasonal peak shortages during the period 2006-07 to 2009-10 are to be arranged through bilateral agreements with State Governments such as Orissa, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh.

> The State Government is also promoting the use of non-conventional energy sources through use of Solar Heaters to reduce peak time demand. Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL) and electronic chokes that consume less energy are being promoted and popularized.

As a result of the efficiency gains from privatization of power, the average tariff increase, as determined by DERC since year 2002 has been modest and less than the tariff increase projected at the time of privatization.

The tariff determined by the Commission, *inter-alia* depends on the overall power purchase cost as well as the operational and financial performance of the DISCOMS *i.e.* AT&C loss reduction, operational expenses, capital investment for system upgradation/augmentation etc.